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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

DO SNAKES SWALLOW SMALL MAM- MALS HEADS OR TAILS FIRST?

While in the Yosemite valley, July 11-15, 1914, I saw three individuals of the rattlesnake (*Crotalus oregonus*) of that region. Two of these were seen July 13, just above Nevada Falls at an elevation of about 6,000 feet, on the trail to Clouds Rest. The third was seen July 15, in the entrance to the valley near Cascade Falls, elevation about 3,445 feet. The first of the two seen on the way to Clouds Rest was lying on some rocks at the side of the trail. It was, of course, soon killed by members of our party.

The snake was about two feet long and had seven rattles and a button. A very noticeable swelling or enlargement just amidships, as well as its sluggish condition, suggested that it had recently swallowed an animal of some kind.

Like Kipling's Elephant's child, we were all filled with "insatiable curiosity", and not being afraid of being spanked, at once asked a new fine question: "What did the rattler have for breakfast?"

The obvious way to find out was to cut the rattler open, which we proceeded to do. I held the snake with my left hand near its head and the other abaft the swelling, while Mr. C. E. Crunsky performed the surgical operation, and the new fine question was answered—the rattler had a fine adult Merriam Chipmunk (*Eutamias merriami*) for its breakfast. And the rattler had swallowed it tail first! The head of

the chipmunk was towards the snake's head, and its legs, tail and fur all lay back toward the snake's tail, smooth and in perfect order. This surprised us very much. We could hardly see how the chipmunk could go down tail first without turning the tail, or some of the legs, or the fur, the other way. We could scarcely believe our own eyes; some of the party were even disposed to grant there had been an error in observation. But as all members of the party (there were six or seven of them) were agreed as to the fact, it is evident that this chipmunk had been swallowed tail first.

A few days later Dr. J. Grinnell sent me a photograph taken August 1, 1914, by Mr. Edward R. Warren of Colorado Springs, which showed a gopher snake in the act of swallowing a chipmunk tail first—only the head of the chipmunk remained exposed.

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SOME AMPHIBIANS NEW TO WHITE- FISH POINT, MICHIGAN

During the summer of 1914, the biological survey of the Whitefish Point region, Chippewa County, Michigan, which is being made by the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, was continued, and additional data on the reptile-amphibian fauna were secured. The three amphibians listed below were obtained for the first time, and increased to sixteen the total number of species known to occur in the region. (See Ann. Rept. Mich. Acad. Sci., 1912, pp. 215-217.)

Ambystoma jeffersonianum (Green).—Found under old logs at the edge of black ash and cedar swamps.

Diemictylus viridescens Rafinesque.—But one specimen was obtained. This was found in a decayed log at the edge of a marsh.

Hyla pickeringii Holbrook.—Common in the hardwood forests and tamarack swamps.

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